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EDITORIAL

It is gratifying to know that the excellent work of the Missouri Geological Survey is to be continued and that it is even proposed "to eliminate all ornamental or irrelevant fancies and go directly after the fundamental facts which make the only logical foundation for a geological survey." It is true that among the "ornamental" facts to be eliminated are such things as "Engineering Instruments, Photographic Apparatus, Laboratory Equipments" and a few others which ordinary geologists have come to consider indispensable. However, it is no ordinary man or ordinary plan of work that Missouri now has on its hands. In a recent St. Louis interview the state geologist announces that "The rocks have never been differentiated in Missouri and Arkansas"—thus setting aside at one stroke of the pen all the results of former work in the region. Fortunately such a dire condition is not to be allowed to continue, and the new state geologist proposes to issue at once a preliminary report in which "I will differentiate the rocks to a finish." He also proposes to give "photographic views of two or three of the best exposures of each rock in the state," from which we may infer that since his *Biennial Report* was issued he has fallen into evil ways and has begun to lean a little on the "ornamental" and "irrelevant" aids of other members of his profession. This new work is to be very thorough and the sedimentary rocks are to be taken, "one at a time, from Z to A."

Incidentally he will courteously give in the report a synopsis of a new "cosmic philosophy" which he has worked out "with only physics, logic and consciousness as guides." With such noble companionship it is no wonder that ordinary grammar is considered out of place. At least we may judge this to be true from such statements as, "Several dykes of diabase were crossed

in the county, as well as rumors of rich deposits, etc.”¹ This sentence gives one some new light on classification and will perhaps obtain for the doubter pardon for his skepticism whether the new differentiation is to be so very thorough after all. When diabase dikes and rumors are classed together, there seems room for doubt as to the closeness of the classification. However, all things are possible to one who can explain dolomite as formed in Sargasso seas and can settle the glacial problem in one short page. The proposed preliminary report will be eagerly awaited ; the *Biennial* is all too brief a pleasure.

H. F. B.

¹ Biennial Report of State Geologist, 1898, p. 36.